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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/801,911	03/16/2004	Bruce D. Conner	74618	3074

27377 7590 11/15/2006

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EXAMINER	
YUN, EUGENE	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2618	

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/801,911	CONNER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eugene Yun	2618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *16 March 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flick (US 6,392,534) in view of Kominami (US 6,785,595).

Referring to Claim 1, Flick teaches a method for verifying a command in a vehicle remote communication system, said remote communication system including a remote transmitter 50 (fig. 1), a receiver module 24 (fig. 1) and a control module 23 (fig. 1) connected by a communication bus 22 (fig. 1) in a vehicle body, the control module in communication with at least one vehicle system, said method comprising the steps of:

a) transmitting an activation signal from said transmitter, said first signal received and decoded by said receiver module (see col. 5, lines 37-47);

b) transmitting a first message from said receiver module along said communication bus, said first message received by said control module (see col. 5, lines 48-52).

Flick does not teach:

c) transmitting an acknowledgment message from said control module along said communication bus, said acknowledgment message received by said receiver module;

d) re-transmitting said first message from said receiver module along said

communication bus, said re-transmitted first message received by said control module; and

e) initializing a vehicle system command from said control module to said at least one vehicle system, thereby preventing an inadvertent activation of said at least one vehicle system.

Kominami teaches:

transmitting an acknowledgment message from said control module along said communication bus, said acknowledgment message received by said receiver module (see col. 5, lines 17-21);

re-transmitting said first message from said receiver module along said communication bus, said re-transmitted first message received by said control module (see col. 5, lines 23-26); and

initializing a vehicle system command from said control module to said at least one vehicle system, thereby preventing an inadvertent activation of said at least one vehicle system (see col. 5, lines 26-28).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the teachings of Kominami to said device of Flick in order to ensure better security of the vehicle.

Referring to Claim 8, Flick teaches a vehicle remote communication system, comprising:

a remote transmitter 50 (fig. 1) having at least one pushbutton 52-54 (fig. 1), said remote transmitter operable to transmit an activation signal;

a receiver module 24 (fig. 1) mounted in a vehicle, said receiver module operable to receive said activation signal from said remote transmitter;

a control module 23 (fig. 1) mounted in said vehicle;

a communications bus 22 (fig. 1) mounted in said vehicle and connecting said receiver module and said control module; and

at least one vehicle system in communication with said control module, whereby said receiver module and said control module validate said activation signal by transmitting a first message from said receiver module along said communication bus, said first message received by said control module (see col. 5, lines 48-52).

Flick does not teach transmitting an acknowledgment message from said control module along said communication bus, said acknowledgment message received by said receiver module, and re-transmitting said first message from said receiver module along said communication bus, said re-transmitted first message received by said control module, thereby preventing an inadvertent activation of said at least one vehicle system. Kominami teaches transmitting an acknowledgment message from said control module along said communication bus, said acknowledgment message received by said receiver module (see col. 5, lines 17-21), and re-transmitting said first message from said receiver module along said communication bus (see col. 5, lines 23-26), said re-transmitted first message received by said control module, thereby preventing an inadvertent activation of said at least one vehicle system (see col. 5, lines 26-28). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to provide the teachings of Kominami to said device of Flick in order to ensure better security of the vehicle.

Referring to Claim 15, Flick teaches a method for remote starting a vehicle in response to pushbutton commands from a remote transmitter 50 (fig. 1), said vehicle including a receiver module 24 (fig. 1) coupled to a powertrain control module 23 (fig. 1) via a communication bus 22 (fig. 1), said method comprising the steps of:

said receiver module detecting said pushbutton commands indicative of a desire to remotely start said vehicle (see col. 5, lines 37-47);

said receiver module transmitting a remote start request message to said powertrain control module via said bus (see col. 5, lines 48-52);

Flick does not teach:

said powertrain control module transmitting a request acknowledgment message to said receiver module via said bus in response to said remote start request message;

said receiver module transmitting a confirmation message to said powertrain control module via said bus in response to said request acknowledgment message; and

said powertrain control module initiating starting of said vehicle in response to said confirmation message.

Kominami teaches:

said powertrain control module transmitting a request acknowledgment message to said receiver module via said bus in response to said remote start request message (see col. 5, lines 17-21);

said receiver module transmitting a confirmation message to said powertrain control module via said bus in response to said request acknowledgment message (see col. 5, lines 23-26); and

said powertrain control module initiating starting of said vehicle in response to said confirmation message (see col. 5, lines 26-28 and col. 6, lines 9-11). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the teachings of Kominami to said device of Flick in order to ensure better security of the vehicle.

Referring to Claims 2, 9, and 17, Flick also teaches said activation signal transmitted by pressing a button on said remote transmitter (see 52 of fig. 1).

Referring to Claims 3 and 10, Flick also teaches said activation signal transmitted by pressing at least two buttons on said remote transmitter (see 52-54 in fig. 1).

Referring to Claims 4 and 11, Flick also teaches that for each button press, said transmitter transmits a unique RF message to complete said activation signal (see col. 5, lines 41-47).

Referring to Claim 5, Kominami also teaches steps c) and d) repeated at least once prior to performing step e) (see col. 5, lines 21-28).

Referring to Claims 6 and 12, Flick also teaches an engine remote start system (see col. 7, lines 54-59).

Referring to Claims 7 and 13, Flick also teaches a remote keyless entry system (see col. 5, lines 41-43).

Referring to Claim 14, Flick also teaches a multiplex two-wire communication bus (see col. 6, lines 8-18).

Referring to Claim 16, Kominami also teaches said receiver module and said powertrain control module transmit said request acknowledgment message and said confirmation message at least twice (see col. 5, lines 21-28).

Referring to Claim 18, Flick also teaches said activation signal transmitted by pressing at least two pushbuttons simultaneously on said remote transmitter (see col. 7, lines 60-65).

Referring to Claim 19, Flick also teaches said activation signal transmitted by pressing at least two pushbuttons sequentially on said remote transmitter (see col. 7, lines 60-65).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eugene Yun whose telephone number is (571) 272-7860. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew D. Anderson can be reached on (571)272-4177. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Eugene Yun
Examiner
Art Unit 2618

EY

MATTHEW ANDERSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER